

THELMA D. DRAKE
2ND DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY
CO-CHAIR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4602

February 29, 2008

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1208 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4215

DISTRICT OFFICES:
4772 EUCLID ROAD
SUITE E
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462
(757) 497-6859

23386 FRONT STREET
ACCOMAC, VA 23301
(757) 787-7836

www.drake.house.gov

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Skelton,

I commend your attention to a recent *Washington Post* op-ed penned by United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie. Sadly, Ms. Jolie's positive perspective on the current security situation in Iraq has gone largely unnoticed by the mainstream press.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is important for our committee to seek out and listen to differing perspectives on Iraq. Ms. Jolie's experience as a UN Goodwill Ambassador has given her the opportunity to travel to Iraq, speak with our military leadership and gain a ground-view understanding of how our long-term strategic objectives in Iraq and the region are being met. As Co-Chair of the Human Trafficking Caucus, I too share Ms. Jolie's concerns about the humanitarian aspects of the conflict in Iraq and the well-being of the refugees in neighboring countries. With that in mind, I would respectfully suggest that you invite Ms. Jolie to testify before the House Armed Services Committee. I believe the membership of our committee would gain crucial insight into another important aspect of the conflict from Ms. Jolie's testimony.

I appreciate and thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response. If you require further information relating to this issue, please contact me or Mike Cosío of my staff at 202-225-4215.

Sincerely,



Thelma Drake
Member of Congress

TD/mc

cc: The Honorable Duncan Hunter, Ranking Member